4th February 1936]

Alleged irregularities in the elections to the Devakottai Panchayat Board.

* 711 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been received by the Government that the general elections held in or about October 1934 for the Devakottai Panchayat Board were not properly conducted;

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the representations will be placed on the table;

(*c*) what orders the Government passed on those representations;

(*d*) whether the Inspector of Local Boards was consulted in the matter and, if so, what remarks he offered;

(*e*) whether a copy of his remarks will be placed on the table;

(*f*) whether the conduct of the said elections was disputed before the Election Commissioner or the High Court; and

(*g*) if so, what judgments were awarded and whether a copy of them will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) A petition was received on 24th September 1934 from certain rate-payers of Devakottai complaining that there was no publication of notice of elections to the Devakottai Panchayat Board.

(*b*) A copy [a] of the petition is placed on the table.

(*c*) The Government declined to interfere in the matter.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government are not prepared to give the information.

(*f*) The validity of the elections was disputed before both.

(*g*) The High Court dismissed the application. The Election Commissioner set aside the elections. Copies of the judgments are not available.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know why the Government declined to interfere in a case like this when the Election Commissioner thought it necessary to set aside the election? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" It was decided long after the Government declined to interfere."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" My point is on what ground the Government declined to interfere? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" On no particular ground. The Government considered that without an elaborate enquiry it would not be possible to find out the truth of the allegations. They thought that it was a case which should be left to the Election Court."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 516 infra.

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Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" With regard to clauses (*d*) and (*e*) the Government say that they are not prepared to give the information. May I know what difficulties there are in giving the information? "

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" The difficulties are that in the public interest the opinions expressed and the correspondence taking place within the Government departments are not generally revealed."

Irrigation

Progress of the proposal for the diversion of the jungle stream in Narlapalli reserve forest to the Badathalav tank in Krishnagiri taluk.

* 712 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder : Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the report of the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) about the feasibility of leading the water from the jungle stream in Narlapalli reserve forest through Chaknayur tank to the Badathalav tank in Krishnagiri taluk of Salem district referred to in answer to question No. 507, dated 8th November 1935, has been received and if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(*b*) by whom the scheme for the diversion of water from the Markandeya river to the said Badathalav tank was investigated and abandoned in 1926; and

(*c*) whether a copy of the report of the Investigation Officer as well as a copy of the order passed thereon will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) No report has been received. The Chief Engineer is likely to send a report only if he considers the scheme feasible.

(*b*) & (*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Chief Engineer's letter, dated 28th October 1925 and G.O. No. 70 I., dated 3rd February 1926, which were placed on the table of the House in answer to question No. 307 on 8th September 1928 (copies [a] enclosed for reference).

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there is a great lack of irrigation facilities in the district, may I ask if the Government will see their way to grant the request put forward by the ryots? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter :—" The hon. Member will see from the letter of Mr. Mullings furnished in answer to this question and published as Appendix II that the ryots will have to pay something like Rs. 48 an acre which I do not think any ryot will pay."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 517–519 infra.